

Amendments To the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] In one embodiment of the present invention as shown in Fig. 2, the transmitting fax machine 32 divides the page of data intended for fax transmission into various blocks, each block having one or more frames. In one embodiment of the present invention, each block comprises either 64K or 16K bytes of data. In alternative embodiments, a block may be a different size. Fax data is transmitted from fax machine 32, through the PSTN 34, to the network device 38 and is accumulated in accumulation block 36 where one or more frames of a block of data are accumulated in the accumulation block 36. Initially, when the fax information is to be transmitted, a portion thereof, namely at least ~~[[on]]~~ one or a number of frames of the fax information, is accumulated in the accumulation block prior to being transmitted. For transmissions of frames subsequent to the initial frames, at least one frame is accumulated in the accumulation block prior to being transmitted. The reason for accumulating one frame is for verifying a cyclic redundancy code (CRC) based upon the one frame of information. Error checking and correction is, in part, performed by the fax machine 32 through the latter's ECM capability and through retransmissions between the ingress gateway 38 and the fax machine 32.

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] The device 38 behaves like a receiving fax machine, performing error correction functions. That is, it checks the CRC in each frame and at the end of a block (in example embodiments, a block is 16K or 64K in size), it requests retransmission of the frames that were in error. The end result of the error correction process is to correct all the errors within the block and thereby render the block error free. The error free block is subsequently transmitted by the ingress gateway 38 through the packet switching network 40 to the egress gateway 44. The data packets are transmitted through the packet switching network 40 using a reliable protocol so that no packet of data is lost and hence no error is incurred during the transmission through the packet switching network 40. When one block of data is accumulated in accumulation block ~~[[48]]~~ 42 of the egress gateway 44, the block of data is transmitted to the receiving fax machine 48 via the PSTN 46. Error correction by way of the fax machine 48's ECM capability and retransmissions between the egress gateway 44 and the fax machine 48 is then performed between the egress gateway 44 and the receiving fax machine 48 until the transmitted block

Application No. 09/586,178
Amendment dated June 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2004

received by the receiving fax machine 48 is error-free.